Technology in public sector units

*170. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to the conclusion that much of the losses in public sector undertakings are due to outdated technology; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government for technology upgradation in various public sector units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Reasons for losses in public sector undertakings are many and vary from units to unit depending on the nature of their activities and the market conditions. In the cases of some units, especially in the case of sick units, outdated technology could be one of the reasons for losses.

The Government have taken a number of steps for technology upgradation in public undertakings. High Level Standing Scientific Research Committees/Scientific Advisory Groups have been set up by the various administrative Ministries. One of the major functions of these Committees/Groups is to develop and improve processes and products, create and provide technology support and services and to develop R&D cadre. The development programmes are pursued in close interaction with various agencies like Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and is various National laboratories, academic institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institute of Science and other National agencies. R&D projects in thrust areas are also formulated by technical groups drawn from public sector undertakings, National laboratories and educational institutions. Also, where necessary proposals from these units for import of technology are also favourably considered.

New Energy Policy

*171. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt a new energy policy in view of the contemplated growing demand for energy in the country during the coming years; and

(b) if so, by when the new energy policy is likely to be adopted and what are the salient features of the contemplated policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The objectives of the energy policy of Government include the achievement of self-sufficiency in energy supplies keeping in view the increase in demand. The Planning Commission has initiated a detailed study on long-term energy modelling and Government will take a view in the matters after the result of the Planning Commission's study is available.

Oil exploration in North Eastern Region

*172. SHRI M. T. BABY:
SHRI K. MOHANAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that north east region is rich in oil and gas which has not been fully explored so far;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The prognosticated resources of hydrocarbons in the north east region is considered to be around 5000 million tonnes.

(c) ONGC and Oil India Limited are already carrying out exploration in this region in a systematic manner.

Development Council for tyres and tubes

*173. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Development council for tyres and tubes was setup long back to monitor the situation in the tyre industry and the market;

(b) if so, when was the Council set up and how many meetings have held so far, indicating the dates of the meetings;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Committee has not met since May, 1985; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) A Development Council for the scheduled industry engaged in the manufacture of tyres and tubes was first constituted under the provisions of Section 6 of the Industries (Dev. & Re, Act 1951 *vide* Notification dated 12th March, 1983 The Council was dissolved and reconstituted in June, 1984 for a period of two years. It was again reconstituted *vide* Notification dated 29th July, 1987 for a period of 2 years with effect from the date of the notification. The meetings of the Development Council were held on 20-12-1984, 17-7-1985 and 8-5-1986.

(c) and (d) A meeting of the Council was held on 8-5-1986. A circular letter has already been issued to all Members of the re-constituted Council requesting for their suggestions regarding issues which they would like the Council to consider in its first meeting.

Second satellite earth antenna system

*174. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earth satellite station at Arvi in Narayangao near Pune is going to have second satellite earth antenna system worth Rs. 16 crore to replace the ageing one set up in 1971; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme for establishment of the Standard 'A' antenna in replacement of the existing one and replacement of some of the assaociated equipments has recently been sanctioned at an estimate cost of Rs. 15.78 crores.

(b) The antenna system will consist of wheel-on-track type of standard 'A' antenna, to work with the satellite system of the INTELSAT (International Telecommunications Satellite organisation) and associated radio/other equipments. It will have analogue and time division multiple access carriers. The scheme is expected to be completed by December 1989.

After commissioning of the new antenna, the original is proposed to be